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PERSONAL

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CORNELIUS SMITH WAS THE SPRINGER

SENSATIONAL CHARGE MADE BY HIM IN COURT.

Allegation That John Gibbons Tampered With One of the Jurors in the Libel Case—When the Witnesses Are on the Stand They Admit They Might Be Mistaken in the Man—Juror Allen Swore He Does Not Know John Gibbons.

Quite a sensation was sprung and exploded in connection with the Scrantonian libel case Saturday. Cornelius Smith—his name being gossiped—sprang it. The substance of it was that one of the jurors, E. R. Allen, had been tampered with; that he had been talking in a low tone in a back room of the St. Cloud hotel Monday evening and that the words "Ripple" and "Scrantonian" were used.

The witnesses who thought they saw all this were T. Ellsworth Davis, who is said to write articles for the Scrantonian, and Evan P. Davis, who admits being a regular contributor to the Scrantonian.

The allegation was made by Mr. Smith for Editor Little in his reasons for a new trial, which were filed Saturday morning with Judge Edwards. The reasons are fourteen in number and are as follows:

1. The court erred in ruling that the alleged libelous matter was not a privileged communication. 2. The court erred in excluding the evidence offered by the defendant to prove the truth of the charges contained in the libelous articles.

3. The court erred in charging the jury as follows: "In the present case the commonwealth claims that not only is there legal malice, but that the evidence discloses actual malice on the part of the defendants against the prosecutor, especially on the part of the defendant Little. You have a right to consider the question of actual malice, although it is not necessary for the commonwealth to establish the existence of actual malice in order to secure a conviction of at least one of the defendants in this case."

4. Also in charging the jury as follows: "If through carelessness and the want of proper investigation he libels an individual who is guilty although he did not intend to publish a libel."

GRADY'S TESTIMONY. 5. Also in charging the jury as follows: "You may consider that his testimony is weakened by the fact that when sworn before the commissioners in the contested election case he testified that he had received no money for his vote or for political services from anybody in the campaign of 1897. It may be true that he informed the defendant of this fact, but even on that question the jury has the right to judge his credibility."

6. Also in charging the jury as follows: "The testimony of the other witnesses is of a different character. I refer particularly to the testimony of Mr. Finn, Mr. Feltow and Mayor Mox. They testify that they know of others who have received money as hearsay evidence. They do not testify that they themselves received any money from the prosecutor, but that they know of others who have received money as hearsay evidence. They do not testify that they themselves received any money from the prosecutor, but that they know of others who have received money as hearsay evidence. They do not testify that they themselves received any money from the prosecutor, but that they know of others who have received money as hearsay evidence."

7. Also in charging the jury as follows: "I do not see how you can avoid the conclusion that this article is libelous and that it tends to blacken the reputation of the prosecutor and to expose him to public hatred and contempt. An examination and analysis of the article will satisfy you on this point."

8. Also in charging the jury as follows: "No jury can avoid the conclusion that to pretend a man is a coward, a hypocrite, a deceiver of politics, and a false pretender tends to expose the man to public contempt and hatred."

9. Also in charging the jury as follows: "You heard the testimony of John J. Grady. He says that before the publication of the editorial article complained of he informed the defendant, Little, that he had ten dollars from the prosecutor to work for Fryor and Kelly in 1897, and had been promised a place in the county jail."

10. You may consider his testimony is weakened by the fact that when sworn before the commissioners in the contested election case he testified that he had received no money for his vote or for political services from anybody in the campaign of 1897. It may be true that he informed the defendant of this fact, but even on that question the jury has the right to judge his credibility."

11. Also in charging the jury as follows: "I have already called your attention to other charges tending to hold the prosecutor before the public as a coward and a false pretender. Is there any evidence in the case which tends in any way to justify those accusations or to rebut the presumption of malice which attaches to their publication? I can find none myself. If there is none, then regardless of the charges in connection with the corrupt use of money in politics, the defendant, Little, may be convicted as he stands charged in this indictment."

12. The court erred in declaring in the presence and hearing of the jury as follows: Hon. Judge Archibald—Question: "Mr. Lenahan was the object of the article to give information to the public?" Answer: "It was Hon. Judge Archibald—'From the reading of it I would draw the inference that it was written not for information, but for the purpose of vilifying the prosecutor.'"

ALLEGED TAMPERING. H. Richard Little, one of the defendants, being duly sworn, says: That he is informed and verily believes that one of the jurors to wit, E. R. Allen, after being empaneled and sworn in the case was tampered with and undue influence was used to induce him to find a verdict of guilty against the defendant.

charge of embracery and Judge Edwards directed that it take place forthwith. Mr. Smith wanted time to get his witnesses and court told him to stand out for them at once. The two Davises and Juror Allen were summoned and at 10 o'clock the investigation began.

T. Ellsworth Davis was first put on the stand. In answer to questions by Mr. Smith he said: I saw him (Gibbons) Monday evening in conversation with a man whom I afterwards learned was a juror in this case. On Monday I had been subpoenaed to attend court as a witness in a little case. I did not come Monday and Monday evening I was sent word to go over to Mr. Vidaver's office. On my way over I met Mr. Ellsworth Davis and together we walked over the Linden street bridge to the St. Cloud hotel. We went in the side entrance from Linden street. We were not long there when John Gibbons and the juror who after ward I learned was E. R. Allen, came in from the barroom.

DAVIS WAS SUSPICIOUS. By the manner in which the men acted I became suspicious and I told Mr. Ellsworth Davis to watch and see what was going on and to note what was said so that I might be able to use the information again if occasion should arise. They sat at a table across the aisle about eight feet away from me. Mr. Gibbons' back was turned and Mr. Allen faced us. They spoke low and in indistinct tones in conversation with each other. I do not think they spoke of Ripple, I heard Allen say that he didn't know about it or something of the kind, and Gibbons said it would be all right, that he would see to it.

Mr. Smith—When Allen said he didn't know about it didn't John Gibbons say he knew it would be all right, he could depend on it? A. He did.

Juror E. R. Allen was called and examined as follows: By Mr. Jones: Q. You were one of the jurors in the libel case? A. Yes, sir, I was.

Q. Did you meet or see a man by the name of John Gibbons at the St. Cloud hotel in this city at the time stated? A. I did not.

Q. Are you acquainted with John Gibbons? A. I do not.

Q. Did you meet any person at the St. Cloud hotel and converse with them with reference to this case? A. I did not.

Q. Did you have any conversation with any person outside of the jury while you were empaneled on that day with reference to the case? A. No, sir.

Q. No conversation whatever? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know Ellsworth Davis? A. I do not.

Q. Do you know Evan P. Davis? A. I do not.

Q. Did you have any conversation with either of the bartenders at the St. Cloud hotel in connection with the case in which you were empaneled as a juror? A. I did not.

ALLEN CROSS-EXAMINED. By Mr. Vidaver: Q. Do I understand you to say you don't know John Gibbons? A. That is what I said, yes, sir.

Q. And that you did not meet him on Monday evening in the St. Cloud hotel? A. I did not.

Q. Then you deny in total that you had anything to do with him? A. Yes, sir, I deny in total everything that that man (T. Ellsworth Davis) says.

Mr. Vidaver said that as the juror had contradicted the witness an issue was raised and the investigation ought to be continued.

Mr. Loftus wrote that he would meet him at the St. Cloud as soon as possible after the arrival of the train which reaches Scranton from Carbondale at 7:48. It was about 3 o'clock when he got there. He went in through the barroom to the dining room. Mr. Loftus is a man about thirty years of age. He had written to him on the Friday before for a conference at the St. Cloud.

Mr. Loftus has passed a United States civil service examination and is looking for a position under the government. Knowing that Mr. Gibbons was friendly with Congressman Connell and Postmaster Ripple he wanted Mr. Gibbons to use his influence with Mr. Connell and Colonel Ripple to help him get an appointment since he had successfully passed the examination.

"RIPPLE"—"SCRANTONIAN." Mr. Gibbons told Mr. Loftus that Mr. Connell was then in Washington and Colonel Ripple's attention was taken up with the Anthracite Brewing company on the Saturday before the Scrantonian. They spoke in low voice as it was a matter that Mr. Loftus did not wish to be generally known.

Mr. Gibbons swore that he never had any conversation with any of the jurors, and never communicated with any of them in writing about any matter.

Attorney John B. Jordan, who boards at the St. Cloud, testified that while in the office of the Anthracite Brewing company on the Saturday before the St. Cloud building a gentleman passed. The witness' brother said: "There is William Loftus, who is looking for a government position." "I don't know him," said the witness. "You ought to know him," said his brother. "He is a tall, thin man, with a high forehead, a black coat, a white shirt and a black tie."

Mr. Loftus was about the height of Mr. Allen. He has a black, close cut mustache, but a ronder face. This concluded the testimony. The court adjourned until Monday morning next at 9 o'clock when the case will be heard on a new trial.

SENTENCE DAY IN COURT. 'Squire J. B. Lesh Will Spend Six Months in the County Jail for Shooting E. F. Rosencranz.

'Squire J. B. Lesh, of Newton township, who was convicted last week of shooting E. F. Rosencranz, of Ransom, was sentenced on Saturday to pay a fine of \$10, to pay the costs of the prosecution and to undergo imprisonment in the county jail for six months.

Charles Gravic, convicted of assault, was fined \$5 and the costs. Fuller Johnson, convicted of assault, was at first sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and to spend thirty days in the county jail. This sentence was later recalled and sentence deferred until next term.

Sentence was suspended in the case of the following boys, who pleaded guilty to statutory burglary, on account of their youth: Martin Lubowski, Eugene Seeley, Roy Seeley, George Resnik, John Ulsick, William Coleman, David Vaughan and Joe Mox. Another member of the gang, William Mox, who is fifteen years old, will be sent to the Huntington reformatory.

Anthony Fasano was acquitted of the charge of seducing Rose Pasqual, but was convicted of fornication and sentenced to pay a fine of \$25, to pay \$50 to the prosecu-trix for living-in expenses and to pay \$12.50 a week towards the support of the child.

The jury which tried Joseph Kilpatrick, on the charge of robbing Mrs. Clarence Ballentine, brought in a verdict of guilty and Judge Archibald sentenced him to the House of Refuge.

A verdict of guilty was found against Martin B. Hines, charged with assaulting Michael J. Kennedy. Judge Edwards sentenced the prisoner to one month in jail and to pay a fine of \$1.

A verdict of not guilty was rendered in the case of Patrick Madden, charged with burglary.

Anthony Hance, Alex. Maynick, John Maryanski and Frank Domeski, convicted of assaulting William Resiski, will be sentenced next Saturday.

NATIONAL EXPORT EXPOSITION, PHILADELPHIA. Special Low-Rate Excursions Via Pennsylvania Railroad.

The Pennsylvania Railroad company has arranged for special low-rate excursions to Philadelphia, account National Export Exposition, on October 20 and 21, November 10 and 11, and December 10 and 11. Round-trip tickets good going only on date of issue, and good to return within three days, including day of issue, will be sold on above dates from Williamsport, Lewisburg, Northumberland and intermediate points, and from points on the Sunbury division, Philadelphia and Erie railroad; from all points on the Susquehanna and Shamokin divisions; Northern Central railway; and from points, Adamsburg to Sellersburg, Hagerstown, on the Potomac division; Pennsylvania railroad, at rate of single fare for the round trip, including admission to the Exposition. For specific rates apply to ticket agents.

RESTRAINING RULE IS NOT OPERATIVE

SO SAY "THOSE IN A POSITION TO KNOW."

The Amendment to the Rules of Select Council Prohibiting the Re-introduction of a Defeated Measure or Anything Similar to It in the Same Year in Which It Originated Is Declared to Be Invald. Reasons Advanced in Support of This Contentions.

Much discussion has been going on in municipal circles since Thursday over the new rule adopted by select council prohibiting the re-introduction of any defeated measure or anything similar to it until the fiscal year in which it originated has elapsed.

The general consensus of opinion is that the rule is inoperative and at the next meeting of the selectmen, when the Lackawanna telephone ordinance comes over from the lower branch for concurrence the invalidity of the rule will be shown.

One reason assigned for its being invalid is that it was not properly passed. There is a clause in the manual of council prescribing that no rule shall be suspended except by a two-thirds vote, and on the strength of this it is claimed that no modification of an existing rule can be effected unless a two-thirds vote is recorded in its favor.

The rule in question was submitted in the form of an amendment, but practically annuls the rule formerly prevailing. This being the case the amendment announces to a suspension of the rule and the sanction of two-thirds of the members voting. The new rule was adopted without a roll call.

Mr. Lansing and some others voted against it, but the "ayes" were so palpably predominant that there was no doubt of an overwhelming majority in its favor and the "noes" refrained from calling for a division. The "ayes" neglected to make a call and the consequence is the record of the vote shows simply a majority.

Another argument advanced against the new rule is that it restrains legislation and no legislative body has power to adopt a measure tending to do this.

One of the councilmen whose opinion in municipal matters is always sought by his colleagues in tangled questions had this to say when asked for an expression on the constitutionality of the new rule:

"Without considering whether this is aimed at any particular measure, it seems to me that this is 'rule run mad.' No legislative body can make a rule which restrains legislation, or, rather, prevents it. Possibly they might in a case where identically the same measure had been considered, but even this is doubtful. Certainly they cannot make so sweeping a rule and never certainly they cannot refuse to entertain and consider a measure which comes to them from another and co-ordinate branch of council."

CAN KILL MEASURE. "They can, by the various rules of parliamentary practice, effectively kill a measure, but, before doing it, it must, at least constructively, consider it. Any refusal to do so would be in defiance of the purpose for which they were created and that is to legislate in other words, to act. So far as the several acts of legislation under which our city gets its power are concerned, no power to do otherwise is conferred."

The act of 1874, which in this respect is not changed by that of 1889, provides that "every bill shall be read at length in each branch etc." It also gives each branch the right to determine.

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